





REV. L. T. NICHOLS.



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NICHOLS, L. T. *History of the Megiddo Mission*. [Running title] (Rochester, NY, Megiddo Mission) (Ninth Edition, Revised. Feb 1st, 1912). 11.5 x 15.2cm.

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Bound in original red paper wrapper with a portrait of L.T. Nichols on the front cover, pamphlet is saddle-stitched with two metal staples, light foxing and tanning of pages, a few dog-ears. Pagination: (2) illustrations, [3]-4 preface, [5]-61 History, (1) Publications of the Megiddo Mission Band, (2) blank. OCLC locates two copies of the 47p 1905 edition (Univ. Rochester; NJ Hist Soc.) and two copies of our 1912 9th ed. (NY State Libr, Western Reserve Hist. Soc. Libr.)

L.T. Nichols (1844-1912) Born in Illinois, grew up in Wisconsin; missionary travels as an evangelist in Oregon, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Minnesota, England. In 1901 he built and launched the steamboat "Megiddo" on the Mississippi river. All 90 members of his Minnesota congregation sold their property and lived on board ship. The Megiddo plied the waters of the Mississippi and its tributaries, with Nichols and others preaching in towns along the river. In 1904 the "Megiddo" was sold and permanent residence was established in Rochester, NY. In 1908 Nichols discovered the Bible teaching that the Prophet Elijah is coming as a herald of Christ. He held the "conviction that Christ is with a few years to return to this earth to begin the conquest of the world necessary for the setting up of the millennium in 1952...So the members have quietly settled down in Rochester to work and watch and pray yet awhile for the coming of all these wonderful things."--pp.45-46. He died in 1912 in Battle Creek Mission. The Megiddo Mission church continues to this day in Rochester, NY.

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MRS. L. T. NICHOLS.
Wife of the Commander of the Mission and a Leading Worker.



REV. MRS. M. HEMBREE,
Lady Minister of the Megiddo Mission.

PREFACE.

EVERY lover of God, of truth, of virtue, of humanity must deeply realize that there is urgent need of reform in our land. Fathers, mothers, wives and sisters are crying out against the great increase of immorality; the prevalence of vice; the spread of intemperance, and general lawlessness. Six hundred women, anxious to save their loved ones from threatened ruin, met in our city to endeavor to put down the terrible evil. What is the matter? What has caused the great change in the last fifty years, yes in the last twenty-five years—since the days of our childhood, when our days were spent in pleasant toil and our evenings in study—when immorality and vice dare not openly vaunt themselves as at the present day? The answer is plain. We were taught that there is an all-wise, all-ruling God, “glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders,” and that the blessed Bible is His divine communication to man, and it was our pleasure and delight to listen to its wonderful lessons. The scene has changed—faith has almost vanished; infidelity is spreading in our land; unbelief is almost universal. Even ministers are turning enemies to the truths they promised to defend, and openly avow that there is no great first Cause, placing the Bible on a par with Shakespeare and other human literature. People in general, have lost faith in the Bible and have been left to govern themselves by their own ideas of right and wrong, without any higher law than their own finite minds to regulate their life. Can you wonder that vice and immorality are increasing? If you continue on in this way—lay the Bible on the shelf; proclaim that there is

no God; trample under foot all that is holy, and exalt man as the sole embodiment of good, you open up the way for the scenes of the French Revolution to be re-enacted. Immorality will increase; the marriage tie be no longer held sacred; sons and daughters dear to fond parents' hearts will fall victims to foul passion's sway; socialism will spread; anarchy will rule; and the words of Jesus will be fulfilled—"MEN'S HEARTS FAILING THEM FOR FEAR, AND FOR LOOKING AFTER THOSE THINGS THAT ARE COMING ON THE EARTH." Nothing short of faith in a wholly inspired Bible will effectually work in the hearts of men and women, so that they will be found putting away all immorality, all vice, all intemperance, all anger, malice, hatred and evil speaking. Cause men and women to believe that there is an all-wise guiding hand—creating and over-ruling the mighty universe; the Bible, His word, containing knowledge all divine; that only those that obey Him will inherit his glorious kingdom, and you will see what good will begin to flow. Purity of heart will begin to manifest itself, and a real living christian will be the gladsome result. We need to realize, in the midst of the desolation and decay that surrounds us that there is *ONE BEING—ONE GREAT FIRST CAUSE, UNCHANGEABLE, INDESTRUCTIBLE AND EVERLASTING*, and that by obedience to his holy law, peace now will be ours, and in the end pleasures forevermore. It is time for every thinking man and woman, for every lover of truth, and of virtue, to arouse from slumber and in love of God, country and home lift up the glorious banner of truth and show that it is one divine harmony. Join hands with us in lifting the dark cloud of error which even some ministers are trying so hard to cause to settle over its blessed pages.

THE AUTHOR.

Ninth Edition, Revised.

Feb. 1st, 1912.

History of the Megiddo Mission.

LIFE, to me, began with earnest toil. In my northern Wisconsin home there were no luxuries, and few of even the necessities of life; but love lightened the toil, and contentment made happy its hours. A boy of fourteen, with only what I could earn by daily toil; an invalid father, a devoted mother, a loving sister, dependent to a great extent on my exertions; I faced the battle of life with few hours to spend in the school room, and none within a college hall. While other boys were at play, I was poring over my books. "Truth was the gem for which I sought"—and my soul's longing cry was: "O, tell me where can it be found?" I started out in life determined to reject error; it mattered not in what deceptive form it might appear, or however honored by long acceptance. While I longed for greater advantages, and more time to devote to study, yet, I was determined to not be discouraged by any obstacle. Such sentiments, as expressed by Horace Greely, helped nerve me for the struggle. "When those who have enjoyed rare opportunities; and swayed vast numbers; and have been borne through life on the shoulders of shouting multitudes; shall have been laid at rest in golden coffins, to moulder forgotten—the stately marble their only monument; it will be found that some humble youth, *WHO NEITHER INHERITED NOR FOUND; BUT HEIRED OUT HIS OPPORTUNITIES*, has uttered the thought which shall render the age memorable—by extending the means of enlightenment and blessing to our race." Personal honor, worldly glory, earth's millions, were not the prize for which I labored. "We need a loftier ideal to nerve us for heroic lives, to deem fame, riches, personal happiness,

but shadows, of which human good is the substance; to welcome pain, privation, so that the sphere of human knowledge, the empire of human thought be thereby extended." While earth's monarchs, and conquerors, and great ones of earth, repose under stately monuments, towering heavenward, soon to crumble to dust; my greatest ambition was then, and is now—to be worthy of having written over me, the simple epitaph: "One, who was faithful to his God, and loved his fellowmen." I looked over the field of human thought to see by what means I could accomplish the greatest good; and I decided that of all the literature of earth, the Bible contained the most knowledge that would benefit humanity, for both this life and the one to come. On the very threshold of my investigations I was met with much to appall, and bewilder even an older head. Over one thousand faiths in the land, all teaching different things, and all claiming to speak the words of an infallible God; all claiming to speak the words of Holy Writ. Yet that very Bible, teaching that all its sayings are yea and amen, not yea and nay (2nd Cor. 1: 19, 20), and its followers must be perfectly joined together in the same mind, all speaking the same things, (1st Cor. 1:10). With such a state of affairs, I could not wonder that the world was turning infidel. I did not wonder that the enquirer after truth, bewildered from the confusion arising from jarring sects, began to doubt the infallibility of this blessed word; so infidelity was adding thousands to its ranks. Either the Bible was divine, the work of an infallible God, or the work of fallible man; there was no half way ground upon which to stand. I met prominent infidels and I could not answer the charges brought against it. I saw that the wise of the world, the great teachers of the day, those trained in the theological schools of the land could not meet them. I saw that the time honored creeds of the day would not stand the test before the "bar of reason and evidence." If all others had failed, what could I do? I trembled at the magnitude of the undertaking. Thus passed

days and weeks of anxious study; when often upon bended knee, amid falling tears I prayed to God for light.

WHY TRUTH WAS HID FROM VIEW.

One day while carefully reading, my eye caught a striking testimony in Prov. 2:3, 4, 5: "YEA IF THOU CRIEST AFTER KNOWLEDGE, AND LIFTEST UP THY VOICE FOR UNDERSTANDING, IF THOU SEEKEST HER AS SILVER, AND SEARCHEST FOR HER AS FOR HID TREASURES; THEN SHALT THOU UNDERSTAND THE FEAR OF THE LORD, AND FIND THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD." How the reading of these testimonies impressed my mind. I must search as for HID TREASURES, to ever find the knowledge of God. If that were so, what had covered it up? I sought for the answer, and found it in the sayings of Paul, the great apostle to us Gentiles. "I charge thee before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead, at his appearing and his kingdom; preach the word; be instant, in season, out of season, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and doctrine—FOR THE TIME WILL COME WHEN THEY WILL NOT ENDURE SOUND DOCTRINE; but after their own lusts shall they *HEAP TO THEMSELVES TEACHERS HAVING ITCHING EARS*, AND THEY SHALL TURN AWAY THEIR EARS FROM THE TRUTH, AND SHALL BE TURNED UNTO FABLES." (2nd Tim. 4:1, 2, 3, 4.) It was the fables that mankind had been turned aside to, that had covered up the truth, the sound doctrine; and Paul told us of it over eighteen hundred years ago, that we might be able to dig beneath the rubbish, and find the hidden truth. How mighty seemed the undertaking! To dig beneath the rubbish of centuries, and find the gold. I knew that the world would only sneer at the thought of such a thing being possible; but others had been sneered at, and succeeded for a far less prize. Where would we have been to-day, if it had not been for the spirit that animated a Columbus, and led him on in the face of untold difficulties? He had to face the doubts of the skeptical, the sneers of the learned, the cavils of the cautious, and the opposition of nearly all; and then before

him lay the dangers of an unexplored ocean. In the prosecution of his discoveries, difficulties did not discourage, nor did dangers appall him; and after the lapse of four hundred years, volumes could not express the wonderful results that have followed the discovery of this fair land of freedom. It has been truly said—"Every great cause, for which heroes have bled, and brave souls have suffered, has once been on coward tongues an impossibility." Fox, of England, once said, "No man ever went successfully through any great enterprise whose earnestness did not amount to enthusiasm. There are so many obstacles in the way of any great achievement, that none but the earnest and enthusiastic will persevere and hold on to its final accomplishment. The irresolute, the timid, after a few efforts will give up in despair." Sir Isaac Newton ascribed his success, "not to superior genius, but to superior industry; to the habit and power he had acquired of holding his mind steadily, and for a long time to an involved, and difficult subject. The wisdom he gained; the knowledge he acquired, did not fall into his idle lap, a wind-fall from the clouds—but he reached it by self denying toil, by midnight study, by bending all his powers in one direction; and keeping them thus bent." The great reason of success in any undertaking in life, is expressed by the one term—"Earnest devotion to a cause held dear."

HOW TO OBTAIN THE KEY OF KNOWLEDGE.

I need not be discouraged because I stood alone. I remembered the words of the celebrated Edward Everett—"I repeat it, of the great benefactors of our race, the men who, by wonderful inventions, remarkable discoveries, and extraordinary improvements, have conferred the greatest benefit on the human race; the most eminent service to their fellow-men—by far the greater part have been men of humble origin, narrow fortunes, small advantages, and SELF TAUGHT. *Whoever has learned to read, possesses the key of knowledge; and can, whenever he*

pleases, not only unlock the portals of her temples, but penetrate to the inmost halls, and most sacred cabinets." If I could but learn to read aright—I could grasp the key of knowledge that would open the door to the store-house of truth, and enable me to grasp her treasures—more precious than the rubies of earth; more to be desired than the gold of the Transvaal. Paul testified to this truth in Eph. 3:4. *"Whereby when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ."* This was plain, that understanding would come through reading, but what must I read? Would this knowledge come from catechisms, prayer-books, commentaries, "The Fathers," or could I obtain it by reading the decree of councils, or the formulated creeds of men? The 5th verse tells who this knowledge was revealed to. "Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed UNTO HIS HOLY APOSTLES AND PROPHETS by the spirit." It was revealed to his holy apostles, and prophets, and I, by reading, could understand. This called to mind a saying of Jesus recorded in Luke 11:52, "Woe unto you lawyers; for ye have taken away the key of knowledge; ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered." The false teachers of the day had taken away the key of knowledge; that which would unlock and open up, and gain access to its most sacred recesses. I must find the key of knowledge. This I did, as I studied the blessed Bible in Hebrew, Greek and English, that I might attain to a knowledge of its more than wonderful pages. I GRASPED THE KEY WITH FIRM, UNYIELDING GRASP—the fables were discarded as truth was disclosed to view. Seeming impossibilities and contradictions vanished. Instead of quailing before the infidel, it was the infidel's turn to quail before the mighty power of truth. Now, after years of earnest, careful study, I rejoice with joy unspeakable to know that I have found the gem for which I sought, and hold in my hands the blessed Bible knowing that upon its pages there are no impossibilities, con-

traditions or absurdities in the language in which God caused it to be written to man. As I stand upon the shore in the full blessed light of freedom, and see for me the ending of the weary centuries of darkness, I lift up my heart in thankfulness to God that I have His blessed word, and by it have been made free from superstition, free to walk in the wonderful light of truth. (John 8:32.)

WHAT WE MUST GLORY IN.

Dear reader, you may think that this is boasting, but not so, for we are commanded to glory in knowing His blessed word. "Thus saith the Lord; let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches; but let him that glorieth, glory in this; *that he understandeth and knoweth Me.*" (Jer. 9:23, 24.) I do not come to you glorying in my wisdom: I do not come glorying in my own strength; I do not come glorying in worldly riches: I only come, as I am commanded,—glorying, that I have learned to know the High and Holy One as revealed in His word. I do not come to you in my own name. God has not spoken to me; nor to any man or woman since he spoke to John on the Isle of Patmos. No angelic being, commissioned by the God of heaven, has come to me with a new revelation. We come to you speaking the words of Jesus, the apostles and prophets. *Come out and hear us on these subjects; read our books, and you will see that our claim is no vain one, but we are prepared to prove the divine harmony of the Bible as you have never heard it proven before.* We do not wonder that reasonable, thinking, honest men and women are doubting the divine authorship of the Bible so long as they believe that the senseless doctrines, and creeds of mankind have emanated from its pages. What do we blame them for, is that they have not diligently studied its pages and found that such theories had their origin in the minds of the Pagans, and their successors, and not from the Almighty, through Jesus, the

apostles, or prophets. "The great reason that unbelief is so well nigh universal, is that the doctrines that are supposed to emanate from the Bible are so irrational, inhuman, and absurd as to be repugnant to every well-balanced mind, and create a prejudice against a book which is supposed to be the source of them. If the Bible taught the doctrines that are preached in its name, not one of us in the cool exercise of reason would accept of it as a true book." All, who are to any extent familiar with the pages of history, are forced to admit, that during what is termed "The Dark Ages," all mankind wandered far away from the precepts of christianity, and what they professed was a mixture of Paganism, with only a semblance of truth here and there. As the great ecclesiastical historian Mosheim, remarked: "No one in these times objected to christians retaining opinions of their Pagan ancestors respecting the soul, heroes, demons and the like, and their transferring them to their devotions; and as no one proposed to utterly abolish the ancient Pagan institutions, but only to alter them somewhat, and purify them—it was unavoidable that the religion and worship of christians should in this way, become corrupted." So error has been retained in the church. The youth of the land have been sent to Theological schools, and taught by means of catechisms, text books, "The Fathers," commentaries, and not out of the Scriptures themselves. When their study was completed, they had to bind themselves by oath to remain true to what they had learned—to their denomination; and so fable after fable has been handed down from generation to generation. Error is taken for granted. *THERE ARE EXCEPTIONS*; but the rule is, to take for granted false theories, rendered honorable in the eyes of the masses by long acceptance. So the saying of Paul has come true; *they have been turned away from the truth unto fables.*

LIFT UP THE BANNER OF TRUTH.

There is a cry sounding abroad in the land, and growing

stronger—not from the professed infidel world; but from those who should be its defenders; from noted pulpits in the land—even Westminster Abbey—that what we have deemed gold is mixed with alloy; that the dearest treasure ever committed to man, the blessed Bible, is not what we have esteemed it. This has caused alarm among those who still hold to the Bible; but they can never silence opposition, convince gainsayers, or cause the reasoning mind of earth's-born to rally to their standard. by endeavoring to silence their objections, or by vain assertions of the truthfulness of its pages, void of evidence to the contrary. Nothing will stop the onward progress that higher criticism has made, or silence the critics of its divine pages, BUT TO LIFT ALOFT THE BANNER OF TRUTH, AND SHOW TO A DOUBTING WORLD, THAT UPON ITS GLORIOUS FOLDS THERE ARE NO IMPOSSIBILITIES, CONTRADICTIONS OR ABSURDITIES, IN THE LANGUAGE IN WHICH GOD CAUSED IT TO BE WRITTEN TO MAN. The Almighty is not responsible for the mistakes that the translators have made, nor for the Pagan fables that mankind have been turned aside to. The sentiment of Canon Henson, of Westminster Abbey, that, *"Inspiration is now not allowed to certify to the truth of any statement in the Bible which cannot be substantiated at the bar of reason and evidence;"* should frighten no one. Do you believe that the God of heaven, the creator of this more than wonderful universe, caused one thought to be recorded that cannot be substantiated at the bar of reason and evidence? People have been educated to believe that there is a conflict between science and religion, but not so; and we would kindly urge you to come out and hear us on this point. "We look upon the broad and lovely face of nature, with its countless beauties of land and sea; we raise our eyes to the measureless immensity of the splendid universe around us; and know that the all-glorious Being, whose power, wisdom and love, has evolved and sustained them all, is not only the God of

nature, but the God of the Bible," and its true teachings are bound to be in harmony with both nature and *ALL TRUE SCIENCE*. I would say "Amen," to this sentiment of Canon Henson, and then show him his folly in ever thinking that the Bible, as given by the Almighty, contained one thought that could not be substantiated at the "bar of reason and evidence." We read in Psalms 60:4—"Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth." The Lord has given us a banner, and it is to be displayed because of the truth—not of error, nor of darkness, but for truth alone. Could Canon Henson, or any of the critics of its blessed pages, prove that it taught that the sun, the moon, the stars, the wonderful worlds on high, this earth, were never created until about six thousand years ago; that the God of heaven had never until then, created one world to reflect his glory, one man or woman to glorify his name; could they prove, that it taught that you and I were counted as rebels before him because another man sinned; that because Adam ate an apple the human race was involved in misery; could they prove, that it taught that the death and righteous life of a well beloved son could atone, or make right the evil deeds of a billion; could they prove that it taught that through untold, never ending ages, tortured souls should writhe in never ending agony; could they prove that it taught that for one whole day the sun, the glorious orb of day, stood still at Joshua's command, and many more such ideas not found within its life giving pages—I would lay down the banner that I have held aloft for the last forty-five years and let its folds trail in the dust; for such ideas never came from above: were never evolved from the divine mind; but are from beneath, earthly and sensual (James 3:15), and would never stand the test before "the bar of reason and evidence." *I know that they cannot prove these theories from its inspired pages, for I have dug beneath the rubbish and know that it is the PURE GOLD, NOT MIXED WITH ONE*

GRAIN OF ALLOY. I will clasp the standard closer, and raise the banner higher, knowing that under no other can victory be won. They are like the boy who told his father that he could get cider out of cotton; but he had to dip the cotton into cider before he could wring it out; so they have to add fables to the Bible, before they can read them out.

Not one of the many shots aimed at it by the critics of its divine truths, ever mars one golden fold; they only strike the false doctrines of Paganism, the creeds and sayings of men, which are never once found within its blessed pages. Read our pamphlet on—"WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?" and you will see how we prove the Bible true, and how we answer infidel objections.

A WHOLLY INSPIRED BIBLE.

WE STAND READY TO DEFEND A WHOLLY INSPIRED BIBLE AGAINST THE WORLD. "Its words are unlike all other words ever written. They have a meaning—yea, worlds and worlds of meaning, one above or within another; while human words have all their meaning on the surface. They have a message, whose truth is dependent upon no single time or circumstance; but speaks to a man at all times, and under all circumstances. They have an authority, a power that survives the passing of earthly monuments and powers. In a word, they are words that experience shows us that no man could have written from the intelligence belonging to his time, or from the experience of any human soul. *IT IS A TRULY IWONDERFUL BOOK* in whatever light we view it; the offspring of many minds, without a parallel among the countless volumes of the library. There is no other instance of about forty writers, living in different ages, combining to produce a book which in all its parts is pervaded by one spirit, one doctrine, one design; and by an air of sublime authority which is its peculiar characteristic. It is impossible to account for its existence upon ordinary principles. To suppose it to be merely a human production, is to undertake the

impossible task of accounting on ordinary principles, for the unanimity of about forty writers, living at different epochs, over a period of about two thousand years; all characterized by a superhuman grandeur of style, loftiness of purpose, and purity of doctrine. The only rational theory of the book is that supplied by itself: "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." (2nd Peter 1:21.) "The presence of one supreme guiding mind, inspiring and guiding; inspiring and controlling the utterances of the authors completely accounts for their agreement of teachings throughout, and for the exalted nature of this doctrine." We can rest in the blessed assurance that it is indeed the word of God that abideth forever.

The inerrancy of the Bible is a serious matter for consideration, for upon it depends not only our present, but, also, our future welfare. The Bible has not only been the forerunner, but the very foundation of all civilization. Anything that tends to undermine this blessed Volume, only aids in bringing misery upon the people.

What good will it do anyone to do as many are doing, trying to cause a dark cloud of distrust to settle around the Author of the greatest production of all literature; trying to get humanity to rely on and take cold science for its only religion? Science is all right in its place, but it is neither life, power, nor intellect. It has never produced anything, either great or small. Science is simply knowledge. Science is said to light our houses; but not so. Science only unfolds certain facts and laws already in operation, by which we can go to work and have as the result of our labor electricity, steam, etc.

Science is said to enable us to send wireless messages over land and sea, but this law has been in operation through an eternity in the past, although science has just discovered that there is such a law.

When did science ever create a sun to give light by day? or an Orion, in conjunction with stars and moon, to give light by

night? Never. Science only deals with and throws light upon existing facts and laws, unfolding how we can use and apply them so as to have certain results follow. Science cannot create or bring into existence a living bird, much less produce sun, moon, or stars, or man, the greatest of all mechanisms. Science cannot maintain them even after they are created and set in motion. Let the heart cease to beat, can science cause it to beat again? or impart life and intelligence to the lifeless form? Never. Then why try to get humanity to receive as their soul-stirring religion that which can neither create nor give life, either present or future, to the receiver.

What we want is, not to receive science as our religion, but, to show that all true science is not against but in harmony with the Bible, from whence all true religion doth flow, blending in one common unity with all nature and nature's laws. If this can be done, we will soon become a moving power to cause Isaiah 48:18 to be fulfilled with all who love this law,—peace to flow as a river, and "righteousness as the waves of the sea."

By going to the original language in which the Bible was written, all the seeming discrepancies quickly fade away, and the Word of the Lord comes forth triumphant, forming a mighty bulwark behind which we can stand without any fear of unbelief undermining the foundation our most gracious God has furnished us to stand securely upon. Now if we can remove every vital, alleged error of the Bible, will it not prove "every word of God is pure"? also prove the Bible to be a strong tower into which the righteous can run and be safe? To place men and women upon such a foundation as this, will indeed be worthy of every effort being put forth to accomplish this much desired end of peace and righteousness.

The churches have taught that about six thousand years ago God made the first man. This idea is inconsistent with the attributes of an all-wise, ever-working, merciful God. The Bible nowhere sets forth such an idea. "The mercy of the Lord is

from everlasting to everlasting"; for untold ages men have existed that needed the mercy of God. Angels, without number, existed long before Adam, the first man of our race, was put on probation, as it is recorded that they are "all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation." (Heb. 1:14.) Angels are declared to be men: "The *man* Gabriel * * * being caused to fly swiftly," (Dan. 9:20), consequently Adam was not the first man God ever made. The happy, immortal family around the throne of God in the worlds on high is millions of times greater than the Adamic race,—even "an innumerable company of angels." For a full elaboration of this subject, see our other publications.

The Bible does not teach that God was on a journey, or fast asleep, doing nothing in the long eternity of the past; but He has always been at work saving humanity, and will always continue to do so. The prehistoric ages that science has discovered or developed, are all brought into union with the teachings of the God of the Bible, as plainly set forth upon its holy pages. The Bible being its own expositor, all is made plain; and it seems as though all would rejoice to see that the Bible is in harmony with all true scientific research.

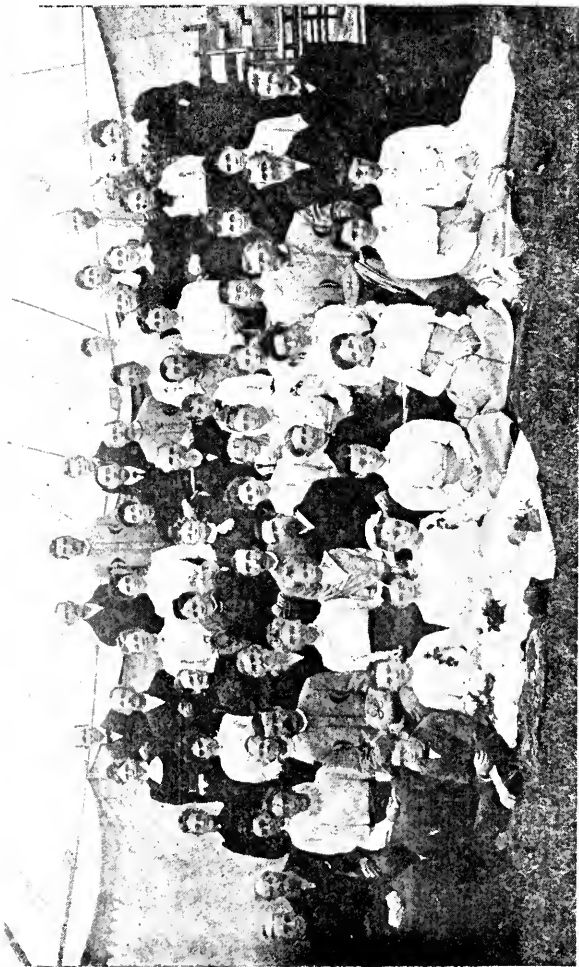
COME AND INVESTIGATE ITS WONDERFUL PAGES

with us, and you can have the same blessed assurance. Why should we not acquire this knowledge that will gain for us pleasures that will never end; joys that will continue to increase through an endless eternity, as the Apostle declares, "EXCEEDING, ABUNDANTLY ABOVE ALL THAT WE ASK OR THINK!" What pleasures would we not long to partake of now; what scenes of rarest beauty would we not long to behold! yet in that wonderland of glory will be greater joy than we will be able to ask for now. There is much to enjoy in the present if earth's pleasures would only endure; but gray hairs, silvering for the tomb, speak to us in no uncertain tones that soon, present

temporal things, for us will forever end. The azure vault of heaven, with its resplendent sun by day and shining host at night, are magnificent; but not long for us; for they fill the ages, while we flutter like the morning insect for a few moments, and are gone forever. The broad and smiling face of the earth with its countless beauties of land and water, "is a thing of beauty and a joy forever"—but soon our eyes, closed by death's slumber, will no longer behold them.

DEATH WILL RAP AT THE DOOR.

You may say that you have no time to search for these wonderful truths, but Death will rap at the door one of these days, and he will not ask if you have time to attend to him. WHAT WOULD YOU THINK OF A MAN IN THE CABIN OF A SINKING SHIP, WHO WOULD SAY THAT AFFAIRS IN THE CABIN LEFT HIM NO TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE LIFE-BOAT THAT STOOD READY TO BEAR HIM TO A PLACE OF SAFETY? You would think him, of all men the most foolish; and so are we, if we allow the cares and fleeting pleasures of this life to absorb our time to the exclusion of the one thing needful. The words of our Blessed Master, uttered over eighteen hundred years ago, come ringing down to us through the ages, with as much power as then, declaring that *we must seek first the kingdom of God and its righteousness to ever have the glories of the future for our portion*; that only those who do his commandments will have a right to the tree of life, and be permitted to enter the beautiful city of God. By a study of the Scriptures for forty-five years, we have become convinced, without a lingering doubt, that life eternal and all its attendant blessings will only be given to those who fear God and keep his commandments, *serving Him with all their mind, might and strength*. We know that apart from the blessed promise of his word, there is no hope of a hereafter. Science may make the world to wonder and



MEMBERS OF THE MECIDDO MISSION

applaud; but science with all its power cannot raise one man from death's slumber; with all their knowledge they can give no hope beyond the tomb; nothing but the mighty hand of God can perpetuate our existence beyond the grave. As we realize this fact, and see the world rapidly drifting into infidelity; see less and less earnest religious zeal; less searching after light; less reading of the Scriptures; in love of humanity we have felt constrained to start out in our mission work.

MISSION WORK NEEDED AT HOME.

We concluded that there was need of mission work at home before we started for the wilds of Africa, or plains of India to convert the uncivilized African, or the unconverted Hindoo. The command of Jesus was to—"First cast the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast the mote out of thy brother's eye." Clean up our own house before we try to set in order that of our neighbors. There is more hope of getting our own people to clean up, than our heathen neighbors. Suppose you were out in a boat, sailing across the waters, having as companion an intelligent man or woman; one capable of doing much good in the world; one worthy of respect and a man at the oars, inferior in intellect, aim and purpose—should the boat capsize and you could only save one, which would you endeavor to save? You would not hesitate—you would first save the one most worthy of being rescued from a watery grave. That is the principle upon which we are working in our mission work, and who can prove that it is not a right one? The Apostle Paul so taught, and he is good authority (Gal. 2:2). He labored with "those of reputation" so that his labor would not be in vain, and we cannot do better than to follow in his footsteps. Come out and hear us on this subject, and from the abundance of evidence that we will give you, you cannot fail to see that mission work is first needed at home.

IT IS NO PART OF OUR MISSION TO ENDEAVOR TO BREAK UP THE CHURCHES.

It is our mission to help the churches to forsake the fables to which they have been turned aside and see the glorious truth in its beauty and wonderful harmony—that they may “*BELIEVE THAT GOD IS, AND THAT HE IS A REWARDER OF THEM THAT DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM.*” It is our mission to help them lay aside pride and worldliness; to forsake all wrath and anger, and every form of evil, that the unbeliever may no longer be able to point at them the finger of scorn, and cast reproach upon the name of Christ because of the conduct of his professed followers. We extend a loving invitation to all ministers and lovers of truth, to join hands with us in this glorious work, and then we can bravely face the hosts of sin; *ALL SPEAKING THE SAME THINGS, PERFECTLY JOINED TOGETHER IN THE SAME MIND, AND THE SAME JUDGMENT.* (1st Cor. 1:10. Amos 3:3. John 17:21.)

ONLY TWELVE APOSTLES.

It is almost universally believed that the commission given by Jesus to his Apostles, to—“Go ye therefore and teach all nations”—(Matt. 28:19, 20), has not yet been fulfilled; and that it remains to be fulfilled in our day. This we do not accept as the teaching of the Bible. Come out and hear us on the subject, and we will prove from its blessed pages that the commission was fulfilled in the days of the Apostles, and by them, and completed before the end of that age or world—the Jewish world. The Apostles fulfilled the commission given to them; and since John proclaimed the *last message* of Jesus on the Isle of Patmos, God has never spoken to any man, but we are only privileged to proclaim the message that was given to them; and our authority for so doing is found in Rev. 22:17, and not in the commission given by Jesus to His Apostles: “*And the spirit and the bride say come, and let him that heareth say come, and*

let him that is athirst come, and whosoever will let him take of the water of life freely." There were only TWELVE APOSTLES of the Lamb, and the power to perform miracles ceased with those to whom the commission was given. This is one of the blessed truths that mankind has been turned away from to a vain fable. The Bible elucidation of this subject throws much light on many texts, and proves false the claims of Mohammedans, Mormons, and all others who claim a succession of Apostles. If this subject had been understood, Joe Smith, and his successors would not have been able to lead astray thousands of their deceived followers, *AND THE DARK BLOT OF MORMONISM WOULD NOT DISGRACE OUR FAIR LAND TO-DAY*. For a full elaboration of this subject, read our Treatise on the Holy Spirit.

WHEN WILL THE WORLD BE CONVERTED?

You have been educated to believe that the world would be converted before the coming of Jesus; but you cannot prove such a theory from the blessed volume, and we can prove the direct opposite. If the world were to be converted before his coming, what reason would there be in Jesus telling us that—"As the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be"? The millions of earth's inhabitants would be walking in the way that leads to destruction and only few be found in the way that leads to life and glory. Listen to the words of Jesus in Luke 18:18—"WHEN THE SON OF MAN COMETH SHALL HE FIND FAITH ON THE EARTH?" Faith would be almost extinct, only few holding on to the faith once delivered to the saints; while the masses would still be clinging to fables. Do not think that we are so egotistical as to believe that *we can convert the world*. We have dug beneath the rubbish that has covered up this truth, and we know that it cannot be done by the power of man. Multitudes will bow at the shrine of error; but it will take a mighty power to

cause the masses to yield to truth, and forsake their fables. The prophet joins hands with Jesus and tells us when the world will be converted. "WHEN THY JUDGMENTS ARE IN THE EARTH, THE INHABITANTS OF THE WORLD WILL LEARN RIGHTEOUSNESS." In the tenth verse he also tells us that they will not learn righteousness now. "Let favor be shown to the wicked, yet will he not learn righteousness; in the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly, and will not behold the majesty of the Lord." (Isaiah 26:9, 10.) Not until Christ comes will people submit and come into the bond of the covenant. The fables and errors so long taught, and to which mankind have been turned aside—have, as expressed by the prophet, cast the vail over the nations, which few will allow to be lifted until Jesus, by His judgments, brings conviction to their minds. The prophet Isaiah thus beautifully expresses the thought: "And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering *CAST OVER ALL people, and the vail that is spread OVER ALL NATIONS*. He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; * * * for the Lord hath spoken it." (Isaiah 25:7, 8.) In the next chapter the prophet tells us by what means this will be done—"Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy door about thee; hide thyself * * * until the indignation be overpast; *FOR, BEHOLD, THE LORD COMETH OUT OF HIS PLACE TO PUNISH THE INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH FOR THEIR INIQUITY*; the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain." (Isaiah 26:19, 20.)

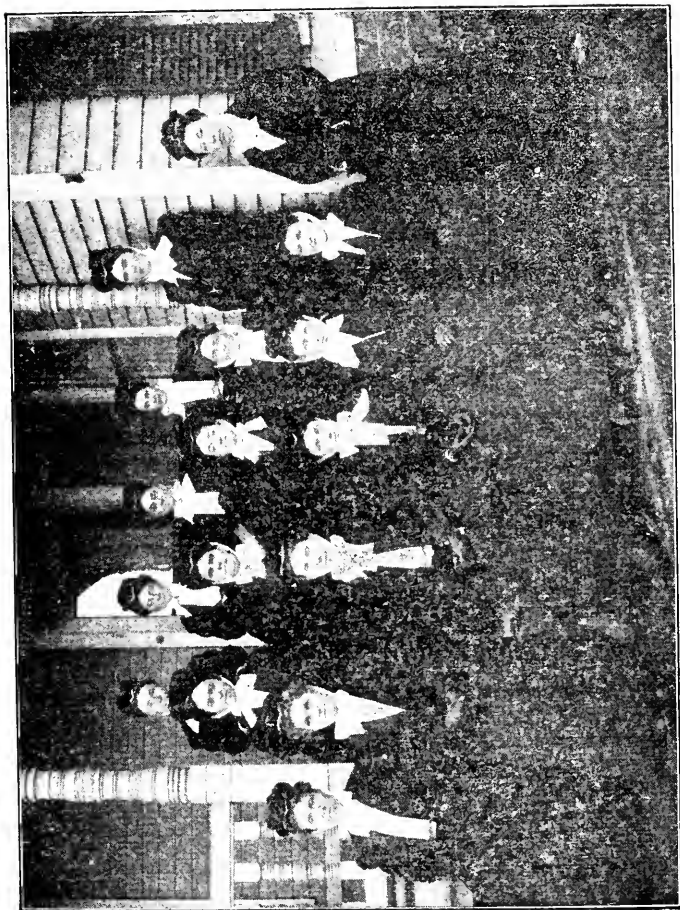
THE COMING OF ELIJAH THE PROPHET.

The God we serve is so just and merciful that He has promised that Elijah the prophet, the one taken from this earth to be reserved for this great work, will be sent before Christ's appearing. We read in Malachi 3:1, "Behold, I will send my

messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me; and the Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to his temple." That this was not fulfilled at Christ's first coming is plainly evident from the connection. 2nd verse, "But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth?" What this day is, that few will be able to abide, is made clear in the 5th verse: "And I will come near to you to *judgment*; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, * * saith the Lord."

Christ did not come to judge His people, and to cut off the workers of iniquity, at His first coming. At His first coming he came as a lamb; at His second he will come as the Lion of the tribe of Judah, conquering and to conquer. This day, in which He will come to judgment and to be a swift witness against all evil doers, is farther explained in Malachi 4:1, "For, behold, the day cometh that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch." This is the day that the Lord is speaking of, and before that day He will send a messenger. Who this messenger will be, we learn from the 5th and 6th verses of Mal. 4: "Behold, I will send you *ELIJAH the PROPHET, BEFORE THE COMING* of the *great and dreadful* day of the Lord." Who can doubt such plain, God-given evidence? Before that great and dreadful day in which He will appear in judgment as a swift witness against all evil doers, that day in which all the proud and all that do wickedly shall meet destruction at the hand of a righteous Judge, He will send *Elijah the prophet*.

What will He send Elijah to do? Listen; not to me, but to the Almighty. 6th verse, "And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, *lest I come and smite the earth with a curse*." The world is in such a state of wickedness, that should Christ come



MEGIDDO DEACONESSES.

now, destruction would be the doom of nearly all on the face of the earth; but Elijah is coming to turn the hearts of the children of darkness to the light. Before Elijah left this planet he understood how to raise the dead, and to ascend to other planets, and after 2,700 years instruction he will come back to this earth armed with full authority and vast stores of knowledge, and, as the result of his work and those associated with him, the whole world will be startled and multitudes will "run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Not the knowledge of science and invention, but knowledge of God is the thing under consideration.

What Moses did before Pharaoh, what Elijah did before Israel and what Christ did before the Jews, are but faint types of what Elijah and his band of faithful ones, that he will find waiting his coming, will do before the nations now upon earth, and cause their hearts to turn to God.

Many claim that John the Baptist was the Elijah referred to; but listen to what John testified in St. John, the first chapter and 19th verse, "And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?" Certainly John was able to give a true record of himself, and we should believe it. 21st verse, "And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not." He plainly said, "*I AM NOT ELLIAS.*" Still they were not satisfied, and they said, "Art thou that prophet?" And he answered, "*NO.*" "Then said they unto him, Who art thou? * * He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord." How clear and plain that he was not the prophet Elijah, proclaiming the great and dreadful day of the Lord!

Luke 1:17 explains how he came: "And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias." John the Baptist simply came in the spirit and power of Elijah as a forerunner of

Christ's first coming, while the great prophet Elijah will come before his second appearing.

For a full elaboration of this subject, read our work on *The Coming of Jesus and Elijah*.

WE DO NOT CLAIM TO KNOW

The day and hour of his coming; but we do know the times and seasons; and know that we are living in the era of the Lord's appearing to destroy all human rule, authority and power, and bring this world into subjection to divine law. "Enlightened by the prophetic statements, we see ourselves on the verge of the great change; we behold in the near future a time of trouble such as has never been; war, universal war, armies shattered, fleets destroyed, fortresses and cities in ruins; the mighty tempests will roar with unalating fury, until the whole world is a wreck at the feet of the coming *"KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."* The Lion, of the tribe of Judah will come, conquering and to conquer, and put down all authority and power of man. (Isaiah 17:12, 13; 1st Cor. 15:14; Rev. 6:2; Rev. 19:19.)

THE STORM WILL ABATE.

"A new government will arise out of the universal chaos; peace will overspread the scene; armies will disband; the arts of war will be suppressed; mankind will be set free to worship God under heaven-sent guides and governors, and to live in joyful harmony everywhere, surrounded with plenty and delivered from sorrow, disease and death; the Lord's prayer will be fulfilled. *'THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN. GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST AND ON EARTH, PEACE, GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN.'*" Then—*"THE EARTH SHALL BE FULL OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD, AS THE*

WATERS COVER THE SEA" (Isaiah 11:9), when the veil that is over all nations is taken away at the coming of Jesus to reign.

We want to tell you this glad news of the kingdom of God, of this King of Kings. What is the glory of an Edward VII, or the Czar of Russia, compared to *THE HONOR, RENOWN AND GLORY THAT WILL SURROUND THIS GLORIFIED KING, WHEN EVERY KNEE WILL BEND, EVERY TONGUE JOIN IN SINGING HIS PRAISE*, and worlds on high—*BRIGHT, SHINING ONES IN ALL THEIR GLORY*, will ascribe "BLESSING AND HONOR AND GLORY, AND POWER, UNTO HIM THAT SITTETH UPON THE THRONE"? Before him the glory of all earthly monarchs pales like the light of a candle before the blazing sun. "A king, who in the possession of universal dominion will save the children of the needy, and break in pieces the oppressor; a king who will look after the poor, and attend to the cry of the needy: Such a king the world has never known. His name will endure forever. The world shall at last and forever be filled with His glory, when the institutions, and the pomp, and pride, and the theories of man, have forever disappeared from below the sun."

COME AND HEAR US

And you will find that this is no fiction of fancy; no product of the imagination; *but a sure and certain hope, built upon past and contemporary events as deep and solid, and irrefutable as the everlasting foundation of the earth*. "Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound" (Psalms 89:15). To help you to know it, and be spared in the day of His coming, we have left lovely homes, braving the uncertainties of river life for over two years, in our efforts to spread abroad this glorious light of truth. The beloved Paul testified—"UNTO THEM THAT LOOK FOR HIM, SHALL HE APPEAR THE SECOND TIME WITHOUT SIN UNTO SALVATION" (Heb. 9:28.) We must be

found looking for Him with clean hands, and a pure heart (Psalms 24:3, 4). No acceptance at His coming apart from being arrayed in the fine linen, clean and white, which the divine record tells us is the righteousness of saints (Rev. 19:8).

Looking at the world around us and seeing how few were keeping His commandments, how few were looking for His coming, how few were ready to receive Him; we felt constrained to start out in our mission work at any cost. I had a lovely home not many miles from Minneapolis; a kind, loving wife, who has stood by my side for nearly forty years, helping me bear the trials of life, and sharing with me its joys; a large shop where I was manufacturing articles of my own invention, bringing in a good income, and an ever increasing demand for the same; but temporal consideration could not stand in the way of duty. There was a God-given command in Joel 2:1, 2:

"BLOW YE THE TRUMPET IN ZION,

and sound an alarm in my holy mountain; let all the inhabitants of the land tremble for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand." In obedience to this command we have started out on our mission to prepare the minds of the people, that they may believe, and be ready to accept the Lord at His coming, which we know to be nigh at hand. We have started out to sound the midnight cry to a world in slumber, to "*AWAKE TO RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND SIN NOT, FOR BEHOLD THE BRIDEGROOM COMETH*" (1st Cor. 15:34, Matt. 25:6). Three years ago when we were preparing to start on our mission, we concluded that we could accomplish more good at less expense by building a large mission steamer, and travel on the waters of the Mississippi, Ohio and Cumberland rivers. As we are strangers in Rochester, and our work has been far from here, I could not better describe our steamer and work than to quote a few extracts from the numerous favorable articles in

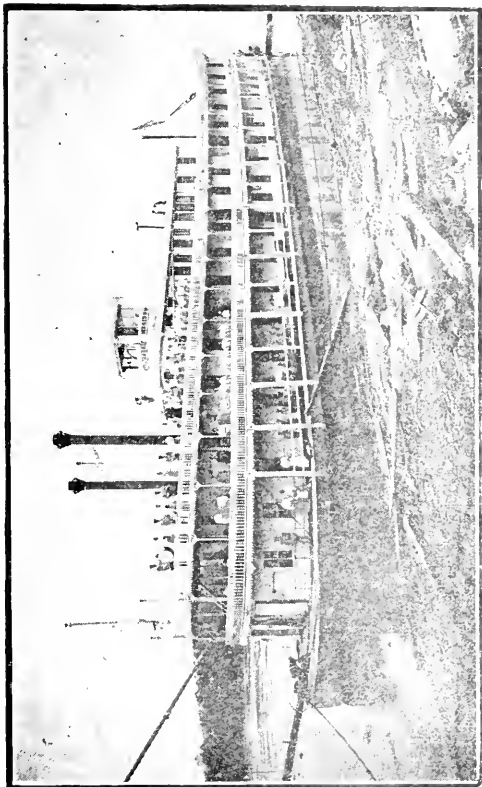
the leading papers where we held our services. Our steamer was launched at Lyons, Iowa, Oct. 24, 1901. The *Clinton Herald* thus referred to the occasion:—

“MEGIDDO LAUNCHED.

THE BIG STEAMER LAUNCHED WITH RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES,

A BIG CROWD TO SEE AND HEAR.

Yesterday afternoon at the Godfrey Marine Ways was witnessed a strange and unusual sight, attendant upon the launching of the Mission Loat ‘Megiddo,’ which for several months has been under construction for the Mission Band. Long before the time arrived for the launching, crowds began to assemble. The weather was beautiful, an ideal October day. About four o’clock music was heard, and headed by the Rev. L. T. Nichols, and led by a brass band, a large number of the Band marched on to the levee, alternately playing and singing a missionary hymn. A brief prayer followed, and then ‘Nearer My God to Thee’ was beautifully rendered by the band; after which Rev. Nichols delivered an address upon the proposed work of the Mission Band. He said the chief aim of the organization would be the turning of men and women from the ways of iniquity to higher, nobler christian lives. He spoke of the prevalence of vice and sin, and called attention to the fleeting character of human life; and impressed upon his hearers the need of being in readiness when the final summons came. He paused in his remarks to say—‘Praise the Lord,’ as the last stay was knocked away, and the great steamer glided smoothly down the ways and out upon the water. He was listened to with the closest attention; then in the gathering twilight, the gray haired leader of the Mission Band pronounced a heartfelt benediction upon the silent crowd before him. Once more forming in regular order, with their band playing, they marched back to their quarters in the Randall House, leaving behind them upon the waters of the



THE MISSION BOAT, MEGIDDO.
A Unique Craft upon which Services are Conducted.

Mississippi, their future home, the 'Megiddo,' with the stars and stripes floating from the lofty staff at the bow. All present were much impressed with the earnestness and sincerity of the Christian workers and wish them success."

St. Paul Dispatch, St. Paul, Minn.:

"EVANGELIST NICHOLS AND FOLLOWERS TAKE
UNIQUE WAY OF PREACHING THE GOSPEL.
BIBLE INFALLIBLE GUIDE.

Enemies of Satan at various times have used horse power, steam cars and electricity in putting the king of evil to flight, but it has remained for Rev. L. T. Nichols to attack him with a navy. That he has done so, has been given tangible proof by the appearance in the river opposite Third and Washington streets of a steamboat bearing on its pilot house the legend—'Megiddo Mission Ship.' One of the faithful explained it by saying that it is a Hebrew word meaning: 'God is in this place with a band of troops.' Mr. Nichols selected it because he thought it appropriate—before the visitor is done looking over the boat he must acknowledge that it is not inappropriate. The genesis of the boat is highly interesting. For forty-four years Mr. Nichols, who, by the way, claims Minnesota as his home, had been trying to convince his fellow beings that the Bible contained no fairy tales, no contradictions, etc. The world was indifferent, but that did not discourage him. He bethought himself of chapel cars, and other like means of reaching the ears of the people, but rejected them one by one. Being of an inventive turn of mind, he hit upon this boat, and no sooner had he hit upon it than it was an accomplished fact. It was built at Lyons, Iowa, and even before the finishing touches were put upon it, its future occupants were on board, largely from Minneapolis, and took possession. They slipped along before the march of winter, and finished their fittings at St. Louis and Memphis; then they were ready for work. It is the intention of Rev. Nichols

to anchor his vessel somewhere in a quiet spot between St. Paul and Minneapolis. When cold weather comes again, he will slip down the river and conduct his campaign in a warmer climate. Mr. Nichols leaves to the church the work which he inaugurates. Whether his naval attack against sin will be successful in the end, or whether it will pave the way for the expected Millennium, Mr. Nichols has succeeded in establishing a community as contented and happy as it is unique. He is an organizer and man of affairs, as well as a preacher of the gospel."

Nashville Banner, Nashville; Tenn.:

"NEW VISITOR AT THE WHARF, STEAMER MEGIDDO AND HER MISSION.

The Megiddo is the name of the large three decked steamer now tied up at the wharf. The steamer was built by its present owners over a year ago, for the purpose of carrying on missionary work on the Mississippi and its tributaries, and so far the work has been eminently successful. The very name indicate their belief, for Megiddo is a Hebrew word, signifying: 'God is in this place with a band of soldiers;' and so these members of the Megiddo Mission Band are the soldiers of God, sounding the battle cry to the Christian world to rouse up, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. The warriors have a firm belief that within a very few years Jesus Christ will be back again on earth to conquer all nations, and establish on earth one universal rule of righteousness, which shall fill the world with peace and good will. They begin their religion at home, with thirty families aboard, and about thirty women, all cooking around one enormous range in their kitchen. They say, that they are yet to have their first quarrel. The commander and originator of this wonderful craft, the Rev. L. T. Nichols, is a preacher of considerable fame, and has traveled many thousands of miles in the United States and Europe to aid his fellow men in leading pure and holy lives. Rev. Nichols is not only a

preacher, he is a very able mechanic and draughtsman, and builder of the ship he commands, and a keen business man, and man of affairs; who, although he has been preaching forty-five years, has yet to take his first dollar salary. His wife is a delightful lady, who looks the picture of health and contentment. Mr. Nichols is helped in his work by Mrs. Maud Hembree, whose Bible knowledge is extensive, and whose clear, distinct language is a pleasure to listen to. Through the kindness of Captain Ryman and Major E. B. Stahlman, their meetings in Nashville are to be held in the Tabernacle, where no doubt their fine brass band of twenty-two pieces will prove a great attraction.

Nashville Banner, Nashville, Tenn.:

"KINGS AND QUEENS TO STEP DOWN AND GIVE
PLACE TO CHRIST THE COMING KING
OF THE EARTH.

At the Tabernacle last evening the subject of the 'Coming King of the Earth,' was continued. The mission people believe that the present kings and rulers of the earth are in their last days; that like as it was in the days of Noah, the earth is ripe for destruction; but in place of only eight being saved, as in that day, the mighty war that is coming, will sweep from the earth two-thirds of its present inhabitants, leaving about 500,000,000, who will submit and come under the righteous reign of Christ, when to him every knee will bend, and every tongue join in singing his praise. They claim that the coming of Jesus is the true hope of the Bible; that men and women of every age do not get their reward until He comes, His work before Him and His reward with Him. That at the coming of Jesus, the sleeping dead of past ages shall awake from their dreamless slumber and come forth to receive in body, according as their work has been."

Nashville Banner, Nashville, Tenn.:

"BIBLE CHRONOLOGY AND MILLENNIUM.

INTERESTING SERMON BY REV. L. T. NICHOLS AT GOSPEL
TABERNACLE.

Bible chronology was the subject of Rev. L. T. Nichols' discourse at the Tabernacle Sunday evening. He gave a chain of chronology taking chapter and verse from the Bible, to prove that it was 4,048 years from Adam to the birth of Christ; that, added to our present time would make the 6,000 years end in 1952. In that year, *true time*, Christ would be seated in Jerusalem, ruling from there the whole world. The time from Adam to Christ was certain, but the time from Christ to our day was uncertain, the best authorities differing all the way from five to fifteen years; but they were sure enough that the time for the great and momentous change was near at hand, very near. The rash prediction of some as to the exact time of the Lord's return, had brought the whole subject into disrepute, but all who would be governed by evidence would believe. Under the law of Moses which was but the type of greater things, the high priest went into the most holy place once a year; and all the multitude stood outside, anxious and expectant, waiting for his reappearance and his blessing. Christ had gone into the holiest of all, even heaven itself, and would soon come forth to bless the people, breaking the power of every oppressor, removing sorrow, disease, misery and eventually death, from off the face of the earth. The preacher exhorted his hearers to prepare themselves for these great events so nigh at hand. * * * Great interest was manifested in the service. At the close, from thirty to forty of those present pledged themselves to study God's word, and by leading pure and holy lives prepare for Christ's return."

Nashville Banner, Nashville, Tenn.:

"GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION NOT A FAILURE, said Rev. L. T. Nichols in his sermon at the Tabernacle yesterday. The earth was indeed to be filled with His glory, and

at the end of 7,000 years from the creation of Adam the world would be peopled by thousands of millions of happy human beings, every one of whom would know the Lord, even from the least to the greatest. The Almighty might have done this great work in one thousand years if he had wished, but where would we have been in that case? We would have had no existence, and had no part in the glorious future. It was the greatest nonsense to imagine that God had condemned anybody on account of Adam's sin. Would there be any sense in hanging a man because his great, great, great-grandfather had murdered somebody? What folly! Yet we have been taught from our infancy that because Adam ate an apple the whole human race became involved in misery and death. The Bible declared God to be a God of love. In such a doctrine as that, there was neither sense nor justice, to say nothing about love. The preacher declared that it did not matter whether we were Methodist, Baptists or members of the Megiddo Mission Band; unless we became pure in heart, we could never see God. That was why so few would be saved, because they would not become pure in heart. During the Millennial reign of Christ, was when vast multitudes would be saved. Great interest was manifested in the sermon, and at the close the preacher asked all those who would pledge themselves to study the Bible, and lead pure lives to hold up their hands, which between one hundred and two hundred did. Rev. Nichols expressed his appreciation of the kind and courteous treatment they had received at the hands of the Nashville people, and prayed for God's blessing on all who were striving to lead pure lives."

Clarksville Chronicle, Clarksville, Tenn.:

"SKETCH OF THE MOST REMARKABLE STEAMER
THAT EVER MOORED AT THE
CLARKSVILLE WHARF.

Having an hour's leisure, we concluded to visit the Mission steamer that has been at our wharf for the past two weeks. As

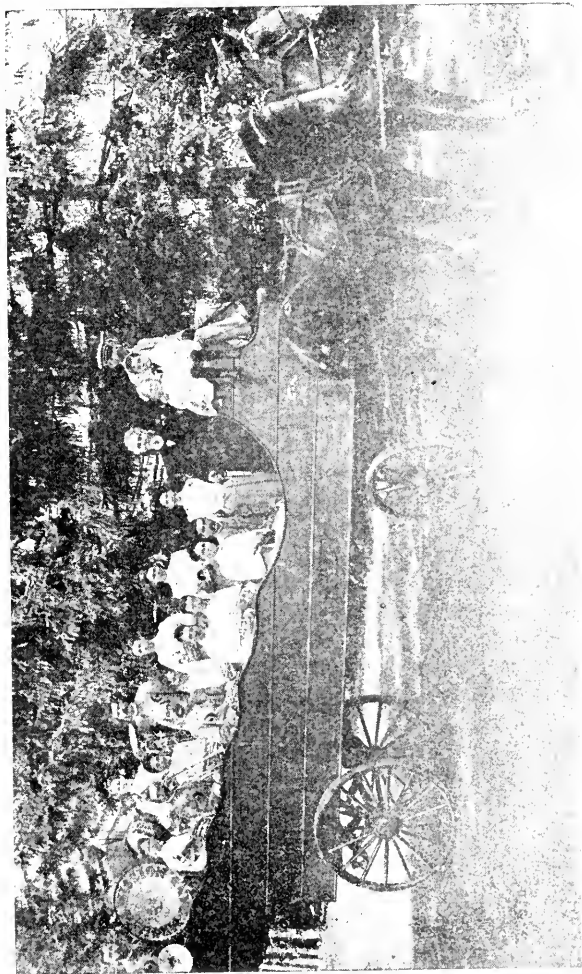
we came in view of the steamer quietly resting on the waters of the Cumberland, we were impressed with its beautiful appearance. Its white sides, its black pretentious smoke-stacks, its lettered pilot house, all testified to its importance. Pure white from water's edge to top of pilot house; its two upper decks adorned with ornamental railings; a lovely back ground in the distance, it was a lovely sight to look upon.

Fastened to its mast was a large open Bible, and engraved upon its open pages was the middle chapter of the Bible, the 117 Psalm, which read:—"O, praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him all ye people, for His merciful kindness is great toward us; and the truth of the Lord endureth forever, praise ye the Lord." On an arch near the front of the steamer were inscribed the words: "In God we trust." A fitting motto for its many missionaries embarked upon the restless waters. Between the smoke stacks another motto read: "United we Stand." We read upon the pilot house, "Megiddo Mission Ship;" "Megiddo" being a Hebrew word, meaning, "God is in this place with a band of soldiers." Before the visitor leaves the steamer he will acknowledge that the term is fitting. These members of the Megiddo Mission Band are the Soldiers of God sounding the midnight cry, that the coming of the Lord draweth nigh, and the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Entering the steamer, we were introduced to Captain Nichols and his pleasant, smiling wife, whose happy face bore witness to the fact that life had fallen to her in pleasant places. Captain Nichols, the commander, originator and builder of this remarkable steamer, is a pleasant, intelligent man, whose every feature manifests ability. He is a preacher of considerable fame, and has traveled many thousands of miles in both Europe and America, teaching his peculiar views. The steamer, the home for about thirty families, is fitted up with more than fifty state-rooms, dining-rooms, kitchen, a laundry and workshop. It is fitted with sanitary plumbing, lighted with acetylene gas, the machine

invented by Mr. Nichols, and fitted in every way for ease and comfort. We were first shown the general meeting room, which is in the center of the steamer, bright, airy and cheerful. It is capable of seating over one hundred persons. There were chairs for an orchestra, a piano and chapel organ. They believe that the Bible teaches that one way to worship the Almighty, is upon all kinds of instruments. We next visited the different state-rooms on the second floor. Unlike all other boats, each state-room is a home in miniature; nicely carpeted, lace curtains at the windows, beds, chairs, sofas, bookcases; every corner utilized so as to be useful and ornamental. The home seems all complete, brightened by the pleasant faces that here and there give a friendly greeting. As we glanced in at the open doorway, mottoes and pictures met the eye at every turn. Reaching the upper deck we came to the wash room, with its long rows of tubs, and its various neat laundry utensils. Here every Monday, the ladies of the Mission steamer cleanse the family linen. They do it expeditiously too, and the much dreaded wash day is soon over on the Mission ship.

SCHOOL ROOM ON THE WATER.

We next came to the pilot's room, and then passing on a wonder we beheld—a school room on the water, with its desks and maps, where the children of the mission steamer are daily trained; and the most wonderful of all, they say, are so trained that no cross words, no quarrels mar the peace. Going below to the main deck, we next visited the large dining room, with its rows of tables and immaculate linen. The mission people do not live as a community, but each family has its own table, and separate cupboards in dining room and kitchen, and all provide for themselves what they prefer. Several had private dining rooms, all models of neatness. The greatest wonder of all was the kitchen, where nearly thirty women provide the daily meals, and it is said, no angry words, no quarrels disturb the



THE MISSION BAND WAGON

quiet scene, but loving consideration and thoughtfulness for others rule the day. After going over the immense steamer, we can truly say, that before visiting it we were not aware that the mission people had such a wonderful home on the water. After passing through its multiplicity of compartments, arranged, equipped and decorated with such taste and neatness, we were struck with astonishment, and were led to exclaim, as did the Queen of Sheba, "The half was not told."

The Democrat, Madison, Ind.:

"MOST REMARKABLE STEAMER EVER AT OUR
LANDING.

Lying at the foot of Mulberry street is the most remarkable steamer that has ever tied at Madison within living memory. The boat is a veritable hive of industry. Everybody is busy, and pleasant and good tempered. In fact the missionaries claim that there is never an exhibition of ill temper on board the boat; and that the thirty women cooking on one stove do so without a quarrel, or even a cross word. To think of seventy men, women and children, who have banded together for a life of self-denying missionary work, who practice this self-denial and economy to the point of never touching tea, coffee, tobacco, liquor, or anything which would unfit them to shine as true servants of God, is something without a parallel on the Ohio river, or the whole world."

The Messenger, Owensboro, Ky.:

"LARGE AUDIENCE GATHERED AT THE TENT TO
HEAR THE MISSION PREACHER.

At 7:45 last night there opened in the big tent on Mair street a meeting which will prove to be the most peculiar, and from all appearances, the best attended that has been held here for years. This is the meeting of the Megiddo Mission. Yesterday this fine band paraded the streets in their band

wagon and last night it played at the services. The tent was completely filled, and at least half as many stood on the outside. Those who attended the meetings will doubtless be surprised at the attractive appearance the tent presents. It is splendidly lighted by acetylene lights. On the platform a band of twenty-two pieces furnished excellent music. Captain Nichols, in his address, showed that he was perfectly familiar with every part of the Scriptures. The audience was very attentive and many of the most prominent faces in the city were seen in the tent. The captain is a pleasing speaker, and grows eloquent at times. He is perfectly familiar with his subject, and his talk shows that he has an excellent education and is ready to argue every one of his statements from a purely logical standpoint. That an impression was made was seen by the comments of those leaving the place of meeting. The Coming of the Lord was the theme of the discourse."

Messenger, Owensboro, Ky.:

"At the meeting last night fully 1,500 people heard Captain Nichols. After he closed his lecture he asked that all who had been helped by the sermons, and who expected to live better lives to stand up. Fully two hundred people did so, many thanking him for the great work done here, and for the light they had received. As Captain Nichols stated last night, it has not been his policy here, or anywhere else to proselyte any church, and they make no attempt to secure new members. His only wish is that he may do some good in the world, and rid it of what he called the false ideas that had clung to it so long. On account of the large crowds the mission people have been having, it is their plan to secure a larger tent in the future."

Louisville Herald, Louisville, Ky.

"Tied up at the foot of Seventh street is a large steamer, which for the last two years has been an object of curiosity everywhere it has appeared. It is a fully equipped three decked

steamer. Under the energetic management of Captain L. T. Nichols it has been up and down the length of the Mississippi from Memphis to St. Paul, up the Cumberland as far as Nashville, and is now pursuing its way up the Ohio as far as Cincinnati. Those on board are not traveling for the purpose of trading, but to get people interested in matters pertaining to Bible truths. That they are a very energetic body of people is evident, for within a few hours of landing they had a neat walk made from their boat to the subway under the Union depot, and with the permission of the railway authorities, had converted the railing into a gateway through which visitors, of whom they expect many, may pass to the ship. The boat and its happy family is one of the most interesting sights that has ever landed in Louisville, and well worth the time spent in going over it and meeting its builder and originator, Captain L. T. Nichols, who has been preaching for over forty years, and has traveled extensively in both this country and Europe, engaged in the work of saving souls."

Cincinnati Enquirer, Cincinnati, Ohio:

"CAPTAIN NICHOLS TELLS OF WORK AND
EXPLAINS CREED.

The energy of the astute business man, combined with a remarkable unselfishness, a kindly personality, yet as dominant and firm as an accomplished general—these are the qualities which are revealed in Captain L. T. Nichols, head of the invading host who have come to regenerate Cincinnati. Captain Nichols' steamboat community is not socialistic nor communistic. His followers have nothing in common except an ardent zeal for the work in which, for the past two years, they have been unceasingly engaged. Full scope is allowed to the individual and what he earns belongs to him. Altogether Captain Nichols' community is a sort of corporation; all parts distinct, yet all working together; forming a harmonious whole. Cap-

tain Nichols was once a wealthy farmer. Deeply religious, a student of the Bible and of broad sympathies, his soul rebelled against the social conditions and the consequent laxity into which he saw the world drifting. He states that he looked for the remedy in the theories of the Socialists and the social reformers. Both were wanting; and on further search he found the solution in the Bible. The steamer represents in itself the very essence of neatness and propriety. Cleanliness is the dominating characteristic. The boiler room is as clean as the kitchen, and the coal stoker is as clean as the trim little women who sit in their apartments and knit all day; a veritable spotless town. A notable feature is the peace and quiet that prevails. Captain Nichols stated that he attempted to realize on board the ideal state for which he looked when Christ would return to earth. He wants a heaven on earth, and to the outsider it seems that there is at least a piece of heaven on his boat."

News Democrat, Paducah, Ky.:

"THE MEGIDDO RETURNS FROM ITS UP RIVER
WANDERINGS.

WONDERFUL BOAT ANCHORED NEAR BROADWAY.

The most remarkable steamer on the Ohio—as for that matter, on any river in the whole world, is now tied up at the Paducah landing. The Megiddo visited Paducah about a year ago, and since then has been up and down the Cumberland and the Ohio rivers. It had a narrow escape from floating ice last week and was stranded on the bar at Caseyville. When the boat was visited by the *News Democrat* reporter this morning, it was learned that the owners of the vessel were thinking of selling her. An interesting story was also secured regarding the rough experience of the Megiddo on her way here. The Megiddoites had a hard time. The steamer was broadside to all the floating ice which came down upon it in vast sheets, ten

acres in extent, and threatened to cut them in pieces. The men barricaded the ship as best they could, under the guidance of Captain Nichols, and soon had a great mass of ice on their upper side which effectually protected the craft from the masses still coming. The Megiddo safely reached Paducah, where Captain Nichols hopes to find a buyer for his splendid craft; as after two years of river work, he thinks he would like to transfer his labors to inland towns."

You can see from these comments of the press, something of what our work has been. After so much labor in the North and South we concluded that we could accomplish more good by coming East and locating in some central point, where we could reach more people. My wife and several of our band formerly lived near Rochester, and from what we had seen and heard, we decided that it was the best point at which to locate. We sold our steamer, moved to Rochester, bought a nice place near the city where we are now erecting suitable buildings for the members of our colony. We have been most kindly received and courteously treated by the press and people of Rochester. We expect to hold services in this city and surrounding cities and towns during the coming summer.

Dear reader, all that I have written has been said with the greatest love to you and only intended for your good. I started out in life determined to add courage to my faith, and no matter what the opposition, to fearlessly proclaim whatever I believed to be truth. My life's history will bear witness to the fact, that following Paul's example, I have not at any time used flattering words, or a cloak of covetousness, and that I have not at any time, shunned to declare the whole counsel of God. I determined to be free from all men; so, during the more than forty years of my ministry, I have never received one dollar salary, and never shall. A number of profitable inventions have helped me to not only live without a salary, but also to

spend thousands of dollars in proclaiming what I honestly believed to be truth, in both Europe and America.

Like Moses, I have had "Respect unto the recompense of the reward," and have not labored for the gold that perisheth, but for that which will endure unto life everlasting. I would rather be worthy of approval at the coming of my Master, than to be counted among earth's millionaires. And now (May, 1904), as we look back over the years of our mission work, we know, from many kind assurances given and many letters received, that we have accomplished much good; that many have been caused to search for the knowledge of God, and have found it, that *FATHERS, MOTHERS, HUSBANDS, WIVES AND CHILDREN* have been caused to speak more kindly, to be more considerate, loving each other better, making home more happy now, and preparing for that bright home in glory. Now that we have started out in a new field of labor, we ask you to help us by your presence and interest in our meetings, to make the coming year one in which much good will be done in the glorious cause of our Master, and many more made happy by a knowledge of His blessed truth.

* * * * *

Eight years have passed since we located in Rochester, and in no other way can we give a better idea of the nature and success of our work than by publishing a few of the many hundreds of pieces that have appeared in the daily papers during the past eight years. The first paper to give an account of our work was the Rochester Herald.

Rochester Herald, Rochester, N. Y., Jan. 31, 1904:

"THE MEGIDDO BAND WAITING FOR CHRIST'S
SECOND COMING.

The magnetic leadership of one man, Captain L. T. Nichols, and the religious conviction that Christ is within a few years to return to this earth to begin the conquest of the world necessary

for the setting up of the millennium in 1952, true time, are the two fundamental cohesive forces that hold this Society together. So the members have quietly settled down in Rochester to work and watch and pray yet awhile for the coming of all these wonderful things. * * *

Captain Nichols claims that Christ will have to come forty years before the millennium in order to make the world ready for the reign of the thousand years of peace. The nations he says will be rebellious and will scoff at the claims of the real Christ when he comes the second time the same as it scoffed at him over 1800 years ago.

As a result of the wickedness and strength of the nations that will try to resist the establishment of His kingdom, Christ will have to lead His followers in a great war of subjugation that will last for forty years before the entire earth is conquered and is ready for the beginning of the reign of peace and love and good will. * * *

Every statement, every canon of the faith of this Christian band is supported by the most exact quotations and references from the Bible. Every one of the followers knows the Bible by heart. * * * But the most wonderful thing about the faith of the Megiddo Band, more wonderful indeed than the sublime faith that each member has in the absolute certainty of the second coming of Christ and of the beginning of the millennium in 1952, is the scholarly way that the whole argument for the fixing of the date 1952 is worked out from the Bible.

D. S. Dowsland, an Englishman, who was attracted to this country some few years ago by Captain Nichols' writings, * * yesterday explained to a Herald reporter the way the date of the millennium had been fixed absolutely, beyond the merest shadow of a doubt. * * *

Christ is to rule over the whole earth, with his capital city at Jerusalem. There are a great many references to this re-establishment of Jerusalem as the great capital city, in the Bible. Those quotations the Megiddo people believe are true. They argue that the Bible is all true. * * *

The Lord's prayer, 'Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven,' is also false, these men declare, if Christ is not to come and reign over men and bring his kingdom here. The days before the second coming of Christ, which are spoken of so many times in the Bible, all substantiate in a wonderful way



WORKERS OF THE MEGIDDO MISSION.

the arguments of these Christian workers. Under their skillful interpretation they assert that the Bible has direct reference to our own day and age when it speaks of the time when 'men shall cry peace, peace, but there will be no peace.' The wars and the rumors of wars, the political corruption and intrigue, and all the other signs of the day are great guide posts to the pilgrims of the band.

'Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him, and the judgment was set and the books were opened,' from the seventh chapter of Daniel is an exact picture of the second coming of Christ that will soon be a reality. Christ will come back on Mount Sinai. There he is to call to life all the dead martyrs and saints and the good men and true who walked and talked with Him on the shores of Galilee. There will be ten thousand times ten thousand of these men and women from the tombs of the dead. All the others who have died are among those who were not the servants of Christ and the true gospel. These men and women, countless millions of them, will be allowed to sleep on and on, all unaware of the tramp of marching men and the roar of the great battles that are to be fought before the establishment of the great era of peace and love. * * *

From this great band of 100,000,000 men and women Christ will use as His army the unfaithful. He will then command the nations of the world to surrender their thrones and to submit to His rule from the holy city Jerusalem. It is to be a great and terrible war. * * * Thousands will go down in the conflict, but the wicked nations will not prevail; and at last Christ will come into His own and the millennium will begin. The thousand years of peace will be characterized by the banishment of disease, of sickness, of hate, wickedness, dishonesty, and all bad things, * *. There will be no more death, no more war, no more trouble; only peace and joy and good will and love and perfect happiness forever and forever.

It is all like a beautiful dream, a chapter out of some new and wonderful fairy book. But, unlike many faiths that men hold with wonderful persistence, this faith is supported in a most resourceful manner by all kinds of arguments and quotations from the Bible itself and from history. Every member of the Megiddo Band believes this story with the sublime faith that nerved the martyrs in their martyrdom.

They are all quiet, mild mannered, hard working men and women. They talk not with high arguments, with vaunting

phrases or with the air of religious fanatics; but with the air of men having a great truth which they would like to bring to the hearts of all men. * * * They have come to Rochester to live until the coming of some of these wonderful things that their leader has taught them to believe. Captain Nichols is not, however, the only thinker in the band. All are men and women who have devoted great thought and study to the Bible. They are men and women who have been attracted to the faith of this magnetic leader by the force of his personality and the argument of his writings. Some of them have come from distant lands across the sea, others have come from many states in the Union; and all are working together to prepare men for the second coming of the Master."

The Saturday Globe, (Rochester edition.) Aug. 20, 1904.

"A BAND OF ZEALOUS CHRISTIAN WORKERS IN ROCHESTER.

Many of our readers will no doubt remember that last January the Megiddo Mission Band; consisting of about eighty members, came to Rochester from the South, where it has been engaged in mission work in its large steamer, the Megiddo. The Band resided for a short time in the city. It then purchased five acres on Thurston Road. Since then the place has been a perfect beehive of industry, proving that the members form a class of missionaries who believe that labor is honorable. There were already on the grounds a handsome residence and two cottages; to this have been added a large three story building containing twenty-one rooms, and another cottage of nine rooms which will soon be completed. The progress they have made proves that they will soon have one of the finest mission homes in the country, and one that will greatly add to the beauty of that portion of the city.

The commander and originator of the band, Rev. L. T. Nichols, is noted as being one of the best versed men on Bible themes in the world. He has spent a lifetime in its study; from childhood the Bible being his constant companion. He has studied the Bible in Hebrew, Greek and English, and boldly challenges the world to prove that upon its pages there is one contradiction, impossibility or absurdity. For over forty-four years Captain Nichols has devoted his life to religious work, and has never accepted a dollar salary. He has traveled many thousands of miles in the United States and Europe to aid his fellow men in

leading holy and pure lives. He is not only a preacher, but he is also an inventor and an able mechanic and draughtsman, and builder of the ship he commanded for over two years and also of the new mission home. He is an able business man and man of affairs, who, besides all his religious work, has accumulated sufficient means to enable him to devote his life to the cause he so firmly believes in.

His wife, to whom he has been united forty years, is a charming lady who looks the picture of health and contentment.

Among the co-workers in his colony, Captain Nichols is more of the brother than the captain. He calls them by name, and they answer as if they were fond of him; and look up to him as one who has their best interests at heart.

The Megiddo Band has been well received by the press and people of the North and South, as well as in this city.

Rochester Evening Times, Sept. 24, 1904.

CAPTAIN NICHOLS SCORES SALOON.

LEADER OF THE MEGIDDO MISSION SPEAKS AT THE GENESEE STREET BAPTIST CHURCH.

The Baptist church was well filled last evening, when the second meeting of the course arranged by the Prohibition Alliance was held. Captain Nichols, who was the speaker, was unsparing in his denunciation of the liquor traffic and its supporters. He said that with all the prohibition and temperance movements in existence the drink traffic is increasing at a fearful rate, and this he attributed to the half-hearted support given to the temperance cause by professedly Christian people who were not Christians at all.

To be a Christian meant, said the Captain, to follow in Christ's footsteps, to do as Christ did. He would not continue in fellowship with one man who would vote for anyone who would license an individual to sell liquor to our sons and daughters. Every five minutes, day and night without cessation, one human being goes into a drunkard's grave. It was a gigantic evil that called for greater devotion and greater patriotism than our fathers displayed at Bunker Hill. History tells us that before that conflict, as those devoted men looked into the British cannon ready to belch forth death and destruction, they vowed that should the victory be theirs they would present the country

an offering to God. The victory became their's, but how far is the country from God and right!

Nineteen hundred million dollars passed over the saloon bars of this country last year. This money, worse than wasted for drink that causes pale women to weep and children to hunger, would, if used aright, provide the comforts of life for every man and woman in the land."

Rochester Evening Times, Dec. 4, 1904.

"CAPTAIN NICHOLS ON SPIRITUALISM.

Captain Nichols of the Megiddo Mission spoke on "Spiritualism" at Colonial Hall, Sunday evening. He said that every thing claimed to be done by the agency of the departed, had been and was being done by others who told just how they did it. "Spiritualism took with the people in my young days," said the speaker. "Great excitement attended the movement throughout the country. I went to the seances until I was convinced that there was trickery at the bottom of the manifestations. The spirits materialized fine silk gauze figures blown up through a small hole in the stage. If they were really spirits from another world, would it be necessary to have the lights turned down before they appeared?"

"What is not trickery," continued the speaker, "is animal magnetism. Occasionally some medium is clever enough to hypnotize somebody and make them believe they saw the spirit of a dead friend. Departed spirits never come back because there are none to come back. If people believed the Bible, there would be no one deluded by Spiritualism. Professor Hull said that the soul was a separate entity from the body. The Bible is against such an idea. 'The soul that sinneth, it shall die,' is everywhere the language and teaching of the Bible."

The power of mesmerism, clairvoyance, and thought reading, and the use they were put to by Spiritualist mediums, was dwelt upon. The speaker told how on one occasion, when attending a Spiritualistic seance, the medium told him that he was such an unbeliever that no spirit could possibly work where he was. "They must be very frail things," Captain Nichols replied, "if one puny man puts them all to flight." "In fact," said the Captain, "the whole subject of spirit manifestations is based upon an assumption; the assumption of a disembodied, conscious intelligence,—a something which has no existence."

"There can be no conscious intelligence without an organization," said the speaker. "We cannot see without an eye to see with; we cannot think without a brain in motion to think with; we cannot articulate without a tongue and palate to articulate with; and when all these organs are cold and silent in death, how can we see, think, or speak? The Bible declares that in death there is no remembrance. It expressly declares that death is a state of total and absolute unconsciousness, and revelation and science are in perfect accord.

When a man is struck a hard enough blow on the head, he is rendered unconscious; but, by some strange fatuity of reasoning, it is commonly held that if he was struck harder still, and killed outright, he would know more than he did before. This is a pagan fiction, nowhere taught in the Bible which bases all hope of a future life on a resurrection, and shows that between death and the resurrection man 'knows not anything,' that even 'his thoughts perish.'

There is no consciousness of time in death's slumber. The next moment to death, so far as the individual is concerned, will be the resurrection morn."

In conclusion Mr. Nichols urged his hearers to prepare for the great and wonderful events so near at hand, by leading purer and holier lives, by putting away all anger and wrath, and following in the footsteps of Him whose meat and drink was to do His Father's will.

The Saturday Globe. (Rochester edition) March 19, 1906.

TRUE CHRISTMAS DAY.

Captain Nichols still continues his mission work among the churches, claiming that they are still holding to many things that are relics of paganism. Captain Nichols is very zealous in the promulgation of what he believes to be truth, and has now surprised the people of Rochester by declaring that the time they have chosen for celebrating Christmas and New Year is not Bible, but pagan time. He also claims that he can prove from both Bible and history that March 25 is the true Christmas and New Year.

One remarkable coincidence that he refers to is that Dionysius, the learned monk who first began to compute our time, began the civil year March 25. Even St. Augustine said that their

"Christmas was neither derived from apostolic usage, nor sanctioned by any general council."

In harmony with its belief, the Megiddo Band has been busily engaged for the past two months in preparing to properly celebrate the day. The Band holds its regular services in Plymouth Avenue Church, one of the largest in the city; and already the walls and grand columns of the lofty church are adorned with 10,000 flowers and other decorations suitable for the occasion. As you enter the main entrance, a picture of rare beauty greets the eye. Flowers everywhere, so perfect that it is difficult to realize they are but imitations of nature's loveliness. Wreaths realize they are but imitations of nature's loveliness. Wreaths of carnations and lilies, intermingled with various decorations and festooned with delicate green, adorn the main entrance. As you advance up the aisle the scene becomes more lovely. Sprays, wreaths and bouquets of roses, wreaths and sprays of lilies ornament both side of the auditorium; and as you glance under the gallery seven bright stars are seen, bearing the words: "Our God is Love;" "Our God is Wisdom;" "Our God is Just;" "Our God is Merciful;" "Our God is Powerful;" "Our God will Save;" "When Jesus Comes."

On each side of every star there is a pot of lovely tulips, looking as natural as though growing in your own garden at home. Upon an arch thirty feet above the rostrum, embellished with lilies, carnations and roses, are inscribed the words, "Christmas Greetings to All." The Megiddo Band believes that at Christ's second coming this earth will be made most beautiful; "the desert shall blossom as the rose," and earth's troubles be hushed in the calm of universal peace; God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven, and thus the earth become a part of heaven.

Sunday, in this beautiful place, amid the flowers, with the triumphant tones of the grand organ and the band pealing through the lofty dome, the band will celebrate the birth of Jesus, who was greater than all earthly rulers, and to them the coming King of all the earth.

A short account of their reasons for celebrating this festival on such an unusual date as March 25, will no doubt interest many. Captain Nichols claims that Dec. 25 could not have been the true date of Christ's birth, as that was in the midst of the rainy season in Palestine, and at that time no shepherds could have been watching their flocks upon the plains of Bethlehem.

At that season the shepherds rested quietly at home, with flocks safe sheltered in the fold, with no thought of braving the dreary rain and cold.

Captain Nichols farther explains: "All who will take the Bible in one hand and history in the other, and carefully examine the evidence given in each, will be convinced that in celebrating Christmas and New Year on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, they are paying tribute to pagan gods, and have no evidence in either the Bible or history to support their claims. Bible time began with Abib, 'the budding, sprouting month of spring; the month of flowers,' beginning with the first new moon after the spring equinox. The 14th day of Abib was the Passover; and Jesus said to His disciples, 'I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer,' proving that it was still Abib, not January, in Jesus' day. Jesus, when twelve years old, accompanied His parents to Jerusalem, to the feast of the Passover. Seeing that He was twelve years old in Abib, it proves that He was born twelve years before in Abib, not December; as our time A. D. began with His birth, it also proves that He was born on the first of Abib.

What an appropriate date for the birth of Jesus! and not the cold, rainy, damp 25th of December, when all foliage is gone, and all nature locked in slumber. * * At this season in Palestine the skies are bright, the air balmy, the valleys and hills clothed with verdure; the fields are green with grains and grasses; with herds and flocks grazing on the meadows. The fig and palm trees are in blossom, the almond, apricot, olive and pomegranate are ripening, and the cypress, sycamore and poplar are decked with the clean, fresh foliage of a new year. Then in all the glens, on all the plains, are flowers blooming, to delight the eye and fill the air with fragrance. What a fitting time for the birth of Jesus and the beginning of a New Year!"

Captain Nichols stated that the pagans had a two-faced god of war, called Janus, from whom our January was named. On the first day of this month they held a feast to this pagan god. Julius Caesar selected the day as the beginning of the new year because one face looked forward and the other back. "Freed from superstition and pagan rites, and standing in the bright light of both revelation and history, we have discarded the pagan theory and now know that Christ, not Janus, stands between B. C. and A. D. Their pagan god of stone had no power or sight to either look forward or backward, but Christ could de-

cipher both. He knew the past, and, divinely inspired, He could read the future; thus He was worthy of ending with His birth the centuries of the past, and inaugurating a new era.

New Year's and Christmas comes on the same day. All who will let reason sit enthroned, will readily perceive how absurd it is to date our time from Christ's birth, and yet wait a week before we start A. D. As it is now accepted, we have a week between B. C. and A. D."

Captain Nichols farther stated, "We could not honor Washington, or a Lincoln, by celebrating their birth on the day that gave birth to a Nero, or a Benedict Arnold; How then can we honor Christ, the greatest character that ever lived, by celebrating His birth on a day dedicated to pagan god? If there ever was a person whose birthday should be known and kept, it is that of Jesus, whose exalted character has won for Him the admiration of all ages."

Rochester Herald, March 20, 1908.

MEGIDDO MISSION HAS NEW CHURCH. SANCTUARY BUILT ENTIRELY BY MEMBERS OF BAND.

The new church building of the Megiddo Mission at Sawyer Street and Thurston Road, was dedicated on Sunday; and for the first time in Rochester the members of this unique religious band worshipped in a sanctuary built entirely by themselves. The new church is a frame building on a concrete foundation, and while simple in its architectural design, is yet a pretty edifice, and well suited to the needs of the community.

The dedication sermon was preached by Captain Nichols, and instrumental music was furnished by the Mission Band of eighteen pieces. The feature of the service was the singing by the children of the mission, happy and healthy little boys and girls, for whom life has nothing but smiles in a community where happiness marks the tenor of simple lives.

Captain Nichols explained that no one outside of the Megiddo Mission had been asked to subscribe one cent to help defray the expenses, and the church was all paid for. The object, Captain Nichols explained, that he had in life, was to be the means of being a blessing to others. He did not want their money, but only wanted them to be nobler and better. He has had printed,

at his own expense, over 600,000 pamphlets since coming to the city, which the band of mission workers has carried to almost every city in the East, South, and Middle States, and also to Canada and England.

While the Megiddo Band work together for the good of the cause they love, they do not believe in a community of goods, and each member has his property in his own name. Captain Nichols does not derive any personal benefit from the labor of any member of the colony, but preaches for them without any remuneration, buys their lumber and other supplies at wholesale, and gives them all the profit.

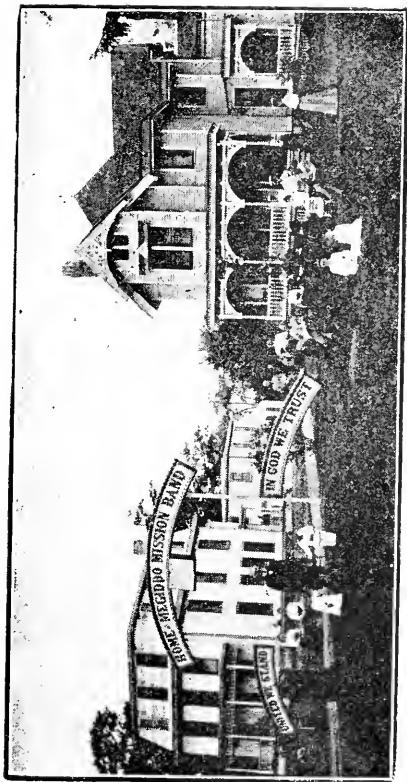
Rochester Herald, March 26, 1911.

MEGIDDO MISSION CELEBRATES TRUE CHRISTMAS.

Many in Rochester will no doubt remember that five years ago the Megiddo Mission celebrated its Christmas and New Year's at Plymouth Church, when the old church was beautifully decorated with its thousands of flowers, and more than five hundred people partook of the supper provided for the occasion. This year the celebration of the anniversary of Christ's birth will far surpass that of any previous year. Megiddo Church is already decorated for the occasion; and people who have seen the decorations say they far surpass anything of the kind ever seen in the city. * * *

Captain Nichols is not only deeply interested in religious subjects, but he is also interested in building up a moral and respectable community that is an honor to the city. He believes in helping those who are willing to help themselves, and can show men and women who four years ago were in debt, who now have good homes, the title in their own name, and, best of all, paid for. Not only does the Captain buy all the lumber and building material at wholesale prices and let them have it at cost, but he also loans them money at 4½%, with no bonus to pay, and then gets them to practice economy and save up for a rainy day, that they may always have a full dinner pail, and not find it empty when sickness or old age knocks at the door.

He has no help for those who spend their money for that which will intoxicate, or for those who deaden their brains with cigar smoke; thus liquor and tobacco must go overboard in the Megiddo Band, and all means be spent for that which will be a benefit, that which will promote health and make life happier and better.



HOME OF THE MEGIDDO MISSION

Democrat and Chronicle, April 9, 1911.

THE MILLENNIUM.

MEGIDDO PASTOR DRAWS SPIRITED PICTURE OF EARTHLY CONDITIONS WHEN CHRIST SHALL COME AGAIN.

"Earth's great Jubilee" was the subject of the discourse at the Megiddo Church last evening. Captain Nichols said in part: "Men are continually seeking to look into the future, and the best of men endeavor by means of legislation and other ways to make provision for its betterment in the future. Yet the only sure knowledge of what the future will disclose is overlooked. That knowledge is in the Bible. Mankind are so bewildered by the teachings of the various sects and creeds of Christendom, so confused by trying to read into the Bible the orthodox beliefs, that the glorious revelations of the wonderful Book on the future of this earth are almost entirely overlooked. Yet the Bible is most explicit in declaring that divine intervention is the sole and only remedy for the dreadful evils that everywhere exist. It declares that the great and eternal God will send Jesus Christ; that Christ will return to this earth, armed with all power to break in pieces and destroy human society as at present constituted; to replace the conglomeration of incapable authorities that now misrule the earth, by the unerring righteous rule of Jesus and His associates, who through the long ages of the past and the present have fitted themselves for the task by obedience to His truth."

Captain Nichols said that the Bible evidences for these assertions were so numerous and so absolutely convincing that there was no man on earth who could refute it. He drew a glowing picture of the glorious and lovely scene the earth will present when the all powerful rule of Christ and the saints has been established. From childhood the population will be instructed in the science of correct living, so that in that age no one will die under a hundred years old. Under just laws, rightly enforced, a few hours work per day will be sufficient to support a joyful and glad existence, and poverty and crime will be a thing unknown.

"All this, and much more," said the Captain, "the Bible clearly reveals; and the evidence that we are within a few years of the beginning of this wonderful time is conclusive. The world will be startled out of its stupor of unbelief and

indifference by the appearance of Christ upon the scene, not this time as the Lamb of God, but as the Lion of the tribe of Judah; coming not to suplicate, but to conquer and rule in righteousness, putting down all authority and power of man, and establishing in their place officers of peace and exactors of righteousness, until God's will shall be done on earth as in heaven. The rich stores of earth will not be squandered, or laid up in the coffers of the millionaires of earth, but, as the prophet Isaiah declares, chapter 23:18, 'Her merchandise and her hire shall be holiness to the Lord: it shall not be treasured nor laid up; for her merchandise shall be for them that dwell before the Lord, to eat sufficiently, and for durable clothing.'

A great work has been accomplished since our coming to Rochester. Thousands upon thousands of our publications, bringing out the true Bible ideas in subject form, have been carried by our willing workers into all parts of the United States, and into Canada and England. We are constantly receiving letters from hundreds in different parts of the country, expressing their thankfulness for the light received that has caused faith in God and His blessed Word to increase, and thus enable them to live better, purer lives.

At this present time, (Feb. 1, 1912) as we look back over the past eleven years spent on our mission steamer and in Rochester, how quickly the years have flown! and how soon the few remaining years before Elijah's coming will pass away; and shall we be found ready? Paul, the great apostle exhorted us to forget the things that are behind, and press forward for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. As we offer the little child a reward for right doing, so the God of the Bible is constantly impressing upon our mind that He will do for us more than we can ask or think; that the future reward will be a "far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory," when this earth is made all beautiful for the eternal home of the righteous, and, as promised, God's will is "done on earth as in heaven."

It is only a delusion to think that we have light within to guide us in the way. The Word of the Lord is the only true light to

our feet and lamp to our path. In the words of Psalm 43:3, we should cry, "O, send out thy light and thy truth; let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles." To be led by the glorious Word of the Lord is the only true forward movement. The doubt and skepticism of the day, that is fast undermining faith in the Bible, is one of the greatest evils of the day, and, to a great extent, the cause of many others that are multiplying rapidly. To have a religion that will move us onward it must be a heart religion, but a heart religion that comes from obeying that form of doctrine that has been delivered to us (Rom. 6:17). Get the head right, let reason sit enthroned and truth govern, and the heart will grow strong and able to resist the deceitful promptings of sin. We can so train ourselves to right thinking and right acting that uprightness will become natural and truth our guiding power.

It has been truly said that our life work is, "To acquire a thorough knowledge of our own heart and character; to restrain our irregular inclinations; to subdue every rebellious passion; to purify the motives of our conduct; to form ourselves to that temperance which no pleasure can seduce, to that meekness which no provocation can ruffle, to that patience which no affliction can overwhelm, and to that integrity which no self-interest can bribe." This is the task that has been assigned to us. It is a task which, if performed, will reap for us a rich harvest of joy now, and in the end pleasures forevermore, while the votaries of fashion, pride and folly will perish in the oblivion of the tomb.

With the masses, it is amusements and frivolity, novels and shows, that fill the mind to the exclusion of the pure reading and right thinking that incite onward to a nobler, better life. I can look back at a life spent in the purification of self, and for the uplifting of humanity, and how much greater the joy and comfort than if I had spent these years sowing to the flesh, only to reap in the end a harvest of sorrow. Jesus promised to all who would forsake the ways of sin, a hundredfold in this life, and to

me the promise has been fulfilled, and will be to you, dear reader, if you will "forsake the foolish" and go "in the way of understanding."

In conclusion I would entreat of you to take fast hold of the only instruction that will bestow upon its possessors perfect peace now, and a life that will never end at the soon coming of the Lord Jesus. Lay aside all prejudice, all theories and sayings of man and deeply realize the sentiments expressed in the following verses:

"Truth is the gem for which we seek;
O, tell us, where can it be found?
For this we search and pray and weep,
That Truth may in our hearts abound.

We want the Truth on every point,
We want it, too, to practice by;
Divine in nature, 'tis the best,
For Truth will ever stand the test.

Seize, friends, the Truth, where'er 'tis found,
On heathen or on Christian ground;
Among your friends, among your foes,
The plant's divine, where'er it grows!"

REV. L. T. NICHOLS,
CAPTAIN OF THE MEGIDDO MISSION BAND,
Rochester, N. Y.

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